

CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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June 9, 1998

The Honorable Maurice Johannessen
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Cal Fed Water Program
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Johannessen:

I appreciate this opportunity to provide the Select Committee with information regarding development of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The following material and the enclosures highlight issues that have been raised by the Select Committee and the public.

Comment period extension. The ending date for public comment period on the CALFED draft programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (PEIS/EIR) has been extended from June 1, 1998, to July 1, 1998.

Revised draft PEIS/EIR. By the end of calendar 1998, CALFED agencies will release a revised draft PEIS/EIR. The revised draft will indicate a preferred alternative approach to addressing four resources issues focused on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Our schedule calls for release of this revised draft PEIS/EIR by December 15, 1998.

Response to comments received during the current comment period. Comments received from the public during the current comment period on the draft PEIS/EIR will be used in development of a preferred alternative, and each comment will be responded to in a "response to comment" appendix that will be prepared for the revised draft PEIS/EIR.

Additional hearings and public meetings. CALFED staff and agencies will continue to sponsor a variety of public meetings and will continue to participate in meetings organized by interested parties. Additional formal public hearings will be held once the revised draft PEIS/EIR is released.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
 Department of Water Resources
 California Environmental Protection Agency
 State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
 Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Reclamation
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

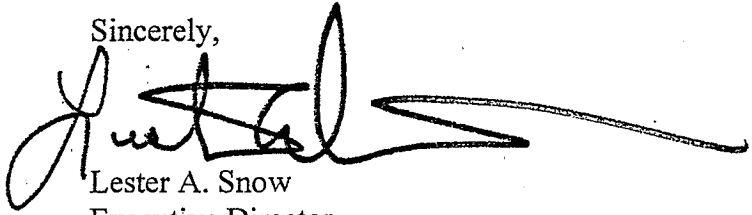
Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

The Honorable Maurice Johannessen
June 9, 1998
Page Two

Additional environmental compliance. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is preparing a programmatic EIS/EIR. Therefore, site-specific activities will require project level NEPA/CEQA review and compliance. The programmatic EIS/EIR will provide a basis for these project specific activities and provides a means of assessing broad cumulative impacts.

I hope this information is helpful to the Select Committee. Please call me at 657-2666 if you have additional questions on this material. I look forward to participating in the Select Committee's meeting of June 9, 1998.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc: Senator Jim Costa
Senator Dede Alpert
Senator David Kelley
Senator Richard Rainey
Senator Hilda Solis

Enclosures